GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
INFANT MORTALITY RATE
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high infant mortality rate has been reported in some parts of the country;

(b) if so,the details thereof,State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the infant mortality?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 FOR 29TH OCTOBER,2008

As per the estimates released by the Sample Registration Survey (SRS) 2007 by the Office of Registrar General of India,Ministry of Home Affairs,the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) for the country is presently 55 per 1000 live births.The State−wise IMR (SRS 2007) is annexed.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare,Government of India,through its National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) program,is implementing the following interventions to address mortality among infants and children :-

1. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness (IMNCI) :

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness(IMNCI) strategy encompasses a range of interventions to prevent and manage the commonest major childhood illnesses which cause death i.e. Neonatal Illnesses,Respiratory Infections,Diarrhoea,Measles,Malaria and Malnutrition.It focuses on preventive,promotive and curative aspects,i.e. it gives a holistic outlook to the programme.The programme is being introduced throughout the country in a phased manner.It is expected that with implementation of IMNCI in the country, there would be a reduction in infant and child mortality.

2. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) :

Promotion of early exclusive breast feeding and timely complementary feeding is being emphasized under the NRHM programme.Early and exclusive breast feeding for the six months of age and continued breastfeeding till 2 years with timely complementary feeding at 6 months is being advocated as the single most preventive intervention for child survival and could result in 19 % reduction in infant and child mortality.

3. Control of Diarrhoea Disease:

Diarrhoea is a common but potentially serious illness in early childhood.The GOI has adopted the WHO new ORS for management of all diarrhoea cases in the country.

4. Control of Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI) :

Acute Respiratory Infection is a serious childhood illness.The GOI in order to control Acute Respiratory Infection is implementing a programme for early detection and treatment of all ARI cases.Health workers are taught to detect cases and initiate treatment at the earliest and refer serious cases to higher centres for treatment.Early detection and timely treatment of Acute Respiratory Infections is expected to reduce the mortality among infants and children.

5. Essential Newborn Care:

Since 23% of neonatal mortality is birth asphyxia,resuscitation training of health care workers at Primary Health Centers and Community Health Centers is being carried out by the Government of India through Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA).Resuscitation equipment is supplied as part of the capacity building of the centers.Field level workers are trained in essential newborn care i.e. initiation of breastfeeding within half an hour of birth,keeping the baby warm,prevention of hypothermia,cord care and infection

prevention.

6. Immunization :

To address the issue of high infant and child mortality,the Government of India is implementing Immunization Programme as one of its key interventions for protecting children from life threatening diseases.All children are vaccinated for BCG,DPT,OPV and Measles.Hepatitis B vaccination has been recently included as part of the immunization schedule in some States.

7. Vitamin A supplementation :

Government of India is implementing Vit A supplementation programme to address Vit A deficiency.

8. Iron supplementation :

Iron and Folic Acid supplementation programme is being implemented to address childhood Anaemia.